

partment of medicine, has been shown by American alienists as a body. As already intimated, there have been striking individual exceptions to these statements. Among them we may name Drs. Gray and Kempster. However much their methods or results may be open to criticism, the *aim* of their labors, and their industry, all should commend. But the fact still remains, that the same lethargy, which affects the whole profession as regards its higher scientific duties and labors, affects our body of alienists, and we see no reason why this state of things should not be the subject of searching criticism.

With such views we can commend the general aims of the authors of the articles we publish, though not necessarily approving in every instance, the phraseology or modes of statement.

As to the last point,—the alleged exclusiveness of the Asylum Association, in its relations to the profession at large—so far as it is true, it is unfortunate to say the least. We doubt not it will soon disappear, in emulation of the less exclusive spirit of similar associations abroad.

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### CLAUDE BERNARD.

The death of this eminent physiologist occurred February 10th of this year, from pyelo-nephritis. Notices of his decease have already appeared in various journals, in this country as well as abroad. We had prepared an extended account of his life and labors as a physiologist, but it has been crowded out for want of space. But we would not neglect the opportunity of testifying our admiration for his remarkable talents and achievements. But few men, in the history of science, have united such capacities as an investigator and thinker.

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AFTER the discussion which took place at the last meeting of the *British Medico-Psychological Association*, concerning the policy and editorship of the *Journal of Mental Science*, we were prepared to hear of the projection of a new journal, devoted to the interests of Neurological and Mental Medicine. Since the last issue of our journal, we have received the pro-

spectus of a new periodical, to be issued in London, under the somewhat fanciful title of "*Brain*."

This title however does not adequately represent its scope, as the following quotation from the prospectus will serve to show :

"On the Continent and in America there are many journals which treat specially of diseases of the Nervous System, but in this country, although in addition to the ordinary medical periodicals, we have journals dealing in Mind and Mental disease, there are none which include in their scope all that relates to the Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, and Therapeutics of the Nervous System. These will form the subject matter of 'BRAIN'—a title not intended as restrictive, but as representative of the whole Nervous System, peripheral and central, as the sub-title, 'JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGY,' indicates. The functions and diseases of the nervous system will be discussed, both in their physiological and psychological aspects; but mental phenomena will be treated only in correlation with their anatomical substrata, and mental disease will be investigated as far as possible by the methods applicable to nervous diseases in general."

It has a distinguished corps of editors, headed by Dr. J. C. Bucknill. The other gentlemen on its editorial staff are Drs. Crichton Browne, Ferrier and Hughlings Jackson. A long list of promised contributors is published, which includes many well known names in England and France. Naturally we approve heartily of the plan of the proposed journal, since it so nearly approaches that of our own. Such a journal was evidently to our minds needed in Great Britain, and it is with no ordinary satisfaction that we regard the promised appearance of "*Brain*," which can hardly fail of taking at once high rank in that department of medical science to which it is devoted.